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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EV 518893877 US

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 26427.704.302

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
)	
Inventor(s): Amir BELSON et al.)	
)	Art Unit: 3739
Application No.: 10/622,801)	
)	Examiner: Beverly M. Flanagan
Filed: July 18, 2003)	
)	Confirmation No.: 3484
Title: Steerable segmented endoscope and method of insertion)	
)	

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97

Sir:

Applicants hereby submit an Information Disclosure Statement along with attached form(s) PTO/SB/08. A copy of each listed publication is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. Applicants further request that the Examiner initial and return the attached form(s) PTO/SB/08 in accordance with MPEP §609.

Applicants reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

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- ☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:
- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date and is other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)
-- OR --
 - ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage
-- OR --
 - ☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits
-- OR --
 - ☐ (4) It is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, then:
- ☐ a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; or
 - ☒ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, but before payment of the issue fee, then:
- A. a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is completed below; and
 - B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are enclosed herewith.
- ☒ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:
- ☐ In view of the voluminous nature of references, and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner in the file history of the parent application (Serial No.), copies are not enclosed herewith.
 - ☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.
 - ☒ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). (The U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not enclosed because this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or this international

application has entered the national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003 (see USPTO waiver of requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i)).

- ☐ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.
- ☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:
- ☐ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), submitted in accordance with MPEP 609 D in support of the attached certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant.
- ☒ *Fee Authorization.* The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above-referenced fees of \$180.00 and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No.26427.704.302).

Respectfully submitted,

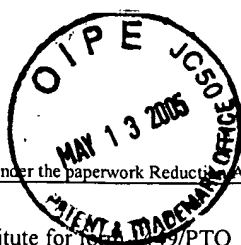
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Substitute for form PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/622,801
				Filing Date	07/18/2003
				First Named Inventor	Belson et al.
				Art Unit	3739
				Examiner Name	Flanagan
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number 26427.704.302	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-2005/0085693	04/21/2005	Belson et al.	
		US-3,643,653	02/22/1972	Takahashi et al.	
		US-4,873,990	10/17/1989	Holmes et al.	
		US-5,060,632	10/29/1991	Hibino et al.	
		US-5,188,111	02/23/1993	Yates et al.	
		US-5,257,617	11/02/1993	Takahashi	
		US-5,728,044	03/17/1998	Shan	
		US-5,957,833	09/28/1999	Shan	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		FR 2732225 A1	10/04/1996	Paul Mazars		X
		WO 93/17751 A1	03/05/1993	AAI Corporation		
		WO 94/19051 A1	09/01/1994	The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University		
		WO 95/04556 A2	02/16/1995	Active Control Experts, Inc.		
		WO 97/10746 A1	03/27/1997	University of Wales College of Medicine		
		WO 99/33392 A1	07/08/1999	Skrabal, Falko; Fortin, Jurgen		X

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST .3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.